

Amendments to the Specification:

On Pages 20-21, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 20-21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--To determine characteristics of the molten metal 4, the flap 20 22 on the drop station 6 is opened by means of a pulse generated in the computer 7, and the bottommost measuring device 8 is transported into the pipe 20 by means of the ejection device 24. In the drop station 6, the next measuring device 8 slips into the bottommost position. By means of positioning this measuring device 8 in the vicinity of the charging station 25, the capacitor 16 of this measuring device 8 is charged, and the measuring device 8 is thereby activated for its subsequent use.--

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